The effect of concentration of ab mix and zpt solutions on the growth and production of mustard plants (Brassica juncea L.) in hydroponic wick systems

Muhammad Reza Subakti1, Nurhayati2*, and Murni Sari Rahayu3

1Student Department of Agrotechnology, Faculty of Agriculture, Universitas Islam Sumatera Utara, Address Karya Wisata Gedung Johor, Medan 20144, Indonesia
2Department of Agrotechnology, Faculty of Agriculture, Universitas Islam Sumatera Utara, Address Karya Wisata Gedung Johor, Medan 20144, Indonesia
3Department of Agrotechnology, Faculty of Agriculture, Universitas Islam Sumatera Utara, Address Karya Wisata Gedung Johor, Medan 20144, Indonesia

Abstract. This research was implemented in the greenhouse at the Experimental Garden of the Faculty of Agriculture Universitas Islam Sumatera Utara, Sub-district Gedung Johor, Medan Johor District, Medan City, North Sumatra Province. This research was implemented from November to December 2020. This study aims to determine the effect of concentration of AB Mix and ZPT solutions on the growth and production of mustard greens. This study used a completely randomized design (CRD) with two treatment factors the concentration of AB Mix solution and ZPT application. The first factors, the concentration of AB Mix solution consisting of 3 levels: K0 = control, K1 = 550 ppm, K2 = 1100 ppm. The second factor was giving ZPT the earliest in 3 levels: Z0 = control, Z1 = 0.5 ml, Z2 = 1 ml. The parameters observed were plant height, number of leaves, leaf length, leaf width, wet weight and dry weight. Its is known from the results concentrations of AB Mix solution significantly affected plant height, number of leaves, leaf length, leaf width, wet weight and dry weight. Giving of ZPT had a significant effect on leaf width but had no significant effect on plant height, number of leaves, leaf length, wet weight and dry weight. The interaction of AB Mix solution concentration and ZPT giving had no significant effect on the growth and production of mustard greens.

1 Preliminary

Vegetables are plant commodities that are able to contribute to national development in order to welfare the community, such as fulfilling community nutrition as a complement to the four healthy five perfect foods, also very potential and prospective to be cultivated because cultivation methods tend to be easy and simple. One of the easiest vegetables to cultivate is mustard [1].

Green mustard (Brassica juncea L.) is one of the most important vegetable commodities in the world. Although green mustard is not native to Indonesia, the development of this agribusiness and agro-industry patterned crop commodity can be categorized as a source of income in the agricultural sector in Indonesia [1].

Green mustard plants are known to have high economic value because this vegetable is one of Indonesia's main export commodities. However, until now, mustard plants production has not been able to meet the needs of domestic and foreign markets. This is because the average national mustard plants production is still very low. The potential yield of mustard greens can reach 40 tons/ha, while the average yield of mustard plant in Indonesia is 9 tons/ha [2].

The low production of mustard greens in Indonesia can be caused by several reasons, such as the application of cultivation technology that is still simple, or because the land for growing crops is decreasing. As is known, today's industrial development is progressing rapidly. These development have shifted a lot of agricultural land, especially in urban areas. As a result, agricultural land is getting smaller. To overcome this, various ways can be taken to increase plant productivity. In this way, it is hoped that from a narrow area, large production can be produced [3].

Hydroponics comes from the Greek, namely hydro which means water and ponos which means power. Hydroponics is also known as soilless culture or plant cultivation without soil. So hydroponics is a method of growing crops without using soil media, but using a nutrient solution of minerals or other materials containing nutrients such as coconut fiber, mineral fiber, sand, broken bricks, sawdust and others as a substitute for soil media. Hydroponic plants can be done on a small scale at home as a hobby or on a large scale with commercial purposes [4].

One of the simplest hydroponic systems is the wick system. Hydroponics wicks (wicks) is a simple method by using a wick as a link between nutrients and the roots.
of the growing media. This hydroponic system is passive, because there are no moving parts in this medium [5].

In the production process, proper planting media and growth regulators are needed to obtain good growth [6]. The use of growth regulators plays a role in increasing the growth and production of vegetable crops. Plant regulatory substances are organic compounds that are not active plant nutrients in small amounts that are synthesized in certain parts of the plant and are generally transported to other parts of the plant, where these growth regulators cause biochemical, physiological and morphological responses [7].

The purpose of the study was to determine the right concentration of nutrients and the right level of ZPT in increasing the growth and production of mustard greens (Brassica junceae L.) in the Hydroponic Wick system.

2 Materials and Methods

2.1 Place and Time Research

This research was conducted at the Experimental Garden Greenhouse, Faculty of Agriculture, Islamic University of North Sumatra, Jalan Karya Wisata, Gedung Johor Village, Medan Johor District, Medan City, North Sumatra Province. This research was carried out in October until November 2020.

2.2 Materials and Tools

The materials used in this study were green mustard seeds as planting material, Styrofoam used as a planting medium and a place to accommodate nutrient water solutions, a netpot for placing mustard plants, rockwool as a planting medium for mustard plants, seed seeding tanks, AB mix nutrient solution. Atonic as material to be used for ZPT solution.

The tools used in this study are PH measuring devices that will be used to measure the PH of water, TDS tools that will be used to measure the concentration of nutrient solutions, digital scales used to weigh the wet and dry weight of mustard plants, oven to dry mustard plants, drill to make planting holes in Styrofoam boxes, markers used to mark the location of planting holes, gauze, tape measure or rollers to measure plant spacing and to measure plant parameters, buckets, gembors or spray guns for watering mustard plants, a 20ml syringe is used as a substitute for a measuring cup that will be used as a measure of the AB MIX and ZPT solutions that will be used.

2.3. Research Methods

The design model used in this study was a factorial completely randomized design (CRD) consisting of factor I: Concentration of AB mix solution consisting of 3 levels, namely: K0: Control, K1: 550 ppm, K2: 1100 ppm and Factor II: Addition ZPT consists of 3 levels, namely: Z0: Control, Z1: 0.5 ml, Z2: 1 ml. Observation parameters were plant height, number of leaves, leaf length, leaf width, wet weight and dry weight of mustard plants.

Application of Nutrition and ZPT. Provision of nutrients and ZPT is carried out before the plants are transferred to the planting plot, before the nutrients and PGR are entered, first enter the water into the Styrofoam box as much as 8 liters/plot, then after that input the ABmix nutrient solution at a rate of 8 ml/liter of water for K2 and 4 ml treatment/liter of water for treatment K1 and ZPT solution with a dose of 1 ml/liter of water for treatment Z2 and 0.5 ml/liter of water for treatment K1 then mix the solution into a Styrofoam box that already contains water then after that stir and measure whether the content the nutrients entered are in accordance with the doses determined using the TDS tool.

3 Research Result

3.1 Plant Height (cm)

The results of the analysis of variance show that the concentration of the AB Mix solution had a significant effect. The treatment of giving ZPT and the interaction of the two treatment factors had no significant effect on the height of the mustard plant. The average height of mustard plants is presented in Table 1.

In Table 1 it can be seen that the concentration of the AB Mix solution had a significant effect on the height of the mustard plant. The highest plants were obtained in treatment K2 (1100 ppm) which was 7.18 cm, which was significantly different from treatment K0 (control) which was 5.69 cm, but not significantly different from treatment K1 (550 ppm) which was 6.54 cm.

The relationship between the height of the mustard plant and the concentration of the AB Mix solution is linear with the equation $\hat{Y} = 5.725 + 0.0014K$, $r = 0.99$. The equation describes a positive linear relationship between the concentration of AB Mix solution and plant height. Thus, the nutrients contained in the AB Mix solution have a positive effect on mustard plants, namely being able to trigger vegetative development.

![Fig.1. Relationship of Mustard Plant Height (cm) with AB Mix Solution Concentration (ppm)](image)

The provision of ZPT had no significant effect on the height of the mustard plant. The highest plant height was obtained in treatment Z2 (1 ml) which was 6.59 cm, followed by treatment Z1 (0.5 ml) which was 6.49 cm and treatment Z0 (control) was 6.32 cm.
3.2 Number of Leaves (sheet)

The results of the analysis of variance show that the concentration of the AB Mix solution had a significant effect. The treatment of giving ZPT and the interaction of the two treatment factors had no significant effect on the number of mustard leaves. The average number of mustard leaves is presented in Table 1.

In Table 1 it can be seen that the concentration of the AB Mix solution had a significant effect on the number of mustard leaves. The highest number of leaves was obtained in treatment K₂ (1100 ppm) which was 9.39 leaves, which was significantly different from treatment K₀ (control) which was 8.39 leaves, but not significantly different from treatment K₁ (550 ppm) which was 9.00 leaves.

The relationship between the number of mustard leaves and the concentration of the AB Mix solution is linear with the equation $\bar{Y} = 8.426 + 0.0009K$, $r = 0.99$. Based on these equations, it describes a positive linear relationship between the concentration of AB Mix solution and the number of leaves. The figure shows that the number of leaves will continue to increase along with the concentration of AB Mix solution.

![Fig.2. The Relationship between the Number of Mustard Leaves (strands) and the Concentration of AB Mix Solution (ppm)](image)

Giving ZPT had no significant effect on the number of mustard leaves. The highest number of leaves was obtained in treatment Z₂ (1 ml) with 9.08 leaves, followed by treatment Z₁ (0.5 ml) with 8.89 leaves and treatment Z₀ (control) with 8.81 leaves.

3.3 Leaf Length (cm)

The results of the analysis of variance show that the concentration of the AB Mix solution had a significant effect. The treatment of giving ZPT and the interaction of the two treatment factors had no significant effect on the length of the mustard leaf. The average mustard leaf length is presented in Table 1.

In Table 1 it can be seen that the concentration of the AB Mix solution had a significant effect on the length of the mustard leaf. The longest leaf length was obtained in treatment K₂ (1100 ppm) which was 12.61 cm, which was significantly different from treatment K₀ (control) which was 10.68 cm, but not significantly different from treatment K₁ (550 ppm) which was 11.71 cm.

The relationship between the length of the mustard leaf and the concentration of the AB Mix solution is linear with the equation $\bar{Y} = 10.698 + 0.0018K$, $r = 0.99$. This equation illustrates that there is a positive linear relationship between the concentration of AB Mix solution and leaf length. The higher the concentration of the AB Mix solution, the longer the leaf length.

![Fig.3. The Relationship of Mustard Leaf Length (cm) with AB Mix Solution Concentration (ppm)](image)

Giving ZPT did not significantly affect the length of mustard leaves. The longest leaf length was obtained in treatment Z₂ (1 ml) which was 12.19 cm, followed by treatment Z₁ (0.5 ml) which was 11.78 cm and treatment Z₀ (control) was 11.02 cm.

3.4 Leaf Width (cm)

The results of the analysis of variance show that the treatment with the concentration of AB Mix solution and the administration of ZPT had a significant effect. The interaction of the two treatment factors had no significant effect on the width of the mustard leaf. The average mustard leaf width is presented in Table 1.

In Table 1 it can be seen that the concentration of the AB Mix solution had a significant effect on the width of the mustard leaf. The widest leaf width was obtained in treatment K₂ (1100 ppm) which was 10.87 cm, which was significantly different from treatment K₀ (control) which was 8.46 cm, but not significantly different from treatment K₁ (550 ppm) which was 10.43 cm.

The relationship between mustard leaf width and the concentration of AB Mix solution is linear with the equation $\bar{Y} = 8.716 + 0.0022K$, $r = 0.94$. This equation illustrates that there is a positive linear relationship between the concentration of AB Mix solution and leaf width.

![Fig.4. The Relationship of Mustard Leaf Width (cm) with Provision of AB Mix Solution Concentration (ppm)](image)
width. The higher the concentration of the AB Mix solution, the wider the leaf width.

Giving ZPT significantly affected the width of mustard leaves. The widest leaf width was obtained in treatment Z2 (1 ml) which was 10.81 cm, which was significantly different from treatment Z1 (0.5 ml) which was 9.58 cm and treatment Z0 (control) was 9.36 cm.

The relationship between mustard leaf width and ZPT concentration was linear with the equation $\hat{Y} = 9.1917 + 1.45 Z$, $r = 0.93$. This equation illustrates that there is a positive linear relationship between the administration of ZPT concentration and leaf width.

Fig. 5. Relationship of Mustard Leaf Width (cm) with ZPT Concentration (ml)

3.5 Wet Weight (g)

The results of the analysis of variance show that the concentration of the AB Mix solution had a significant effect. The treatment of giving ZPT and the interaction of the two treatment factors had no significant effect on the wet weight of mustard greens. The average wet weight of mustard greens is presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Average Effect of Concentration of AB Mix Solution and ZPT on Growth and Production of Mustard Plants (Brassica juncea L) in Hydroponic Wick Systems

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treatment</th>
<th>Plant Height (cm)</th>
<th>Number of Leaves (sheet)</th>
<th>Leaf Length (cm)</th>
<th>Leaf Width (cm)</th>
<th>Wet Weight (g)</th>
<th>Dry Weight (g)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AB Mix Solution</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>K0</td>
<td>5.69 b</td>
<td>8.39 b</td>
<td>10.68 b</td>
<td>8.46 b</td>
<td>84.89 c</td>
<td>6.56 c</td>
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<tr>
<td>K1</td>
<td>6.54 a</td>
<td>9.00 a</td>
<td>11.71 a</td>
<td>10.43 a</td>
<td>125.55 b</td>
<td>10.56 b</td>
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<tr>
<td>K2</td>
<td>7.18 a</td>
<td>9.39 a</td>
<td>12.61 a</td>
<td>10.87 a</td>
<td>159.22 a</td>
<td>12.33 a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Z0</td>
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<td>8.81</td>
<td>11.02</td>
<td>9.36 b</td>
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<td>8.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Z1</td>
<td>6.49</td>
<td>8.89</td>
<td>11.78</td>
<td>9.58 b</td>
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<td>Z2</td>
<td>6.59</td>
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<td>12.19</td>
<td>10.81 a</td>
<td>141.33</td>
<td>11.22</td>
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<td>8.05</td>
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<tr>
<td>K1Z0</td>
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<td>12.09</td>
<td>182.00</td>
<td>14.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: the numbers followed by letters that are not the same in the same treatment group are significantly different at 5% with the DMRT test.

In Table 1, it can be seen that the concentration of the AB Mix solution had a significant effect on the wet weight of mustard greens. The heaviest wet weight was obtained in treatment K2 (1100 ppm) which was 159.22 g, which was significantly different from treatment K0 (control) which was 84.89 g and treatment K1 (550 ppm) which was 125.55 g.

The relationship between the wet weight of mustard greens and the concentration of the AB Mix solution is linear with the equation $\hat{Y} = 86.056 + 0.0676K$, $r = 0.99$. The equation describes a positive linear relationship between the concentration of the AB Mix solution and the wet weight.

Fig. 6. Relationship between Wet Weight (g) and Concentration of AB Mix Solution (ppm)

Giving ZPT had no significant effect on the wet weight of mustard greens. The heaviest wet weight was obtained in treatment Z2 (1 ml) which was 141.33 g, followed by treatment Z1 (0.5 ml) which was 120.22 g and treatment Z0 (control) was 108.11 g.
3.6 Dry Weight (g)

The results of the analysis of variance show that the concentration of the AB Mix solution had a significant effect. The treatment of giving ZPT and the interaction of the two treatment factors had no significant effect on the dry weight of mustard greens. The average dry weight of mustard greens is presented in Table 1.

In Table 1 it can be seen that the concentration of the AB Mix solution had a significant effect on the dry weight of mustard greens. The heaviest dry weight was obtained in treatment Z2 (1 ml) which was 11.22 g, which was significantly different from treatment Z0 (control) which was 10.56 g and treatment Z1 (0.5 ml) which was 9.67 g.

The relationship between dry weight of mustard greens and the concentration of AB Mix solution is linear with the equation \( \hat{Y} = 6.927 + 0.0053K \), \( r = 0.97 \). The equation describes a positive linear relationship between the concentration of the AB Mix solution and the dry weight.

![Fig.7. The Relationship of Mustard Dry Weight (g) with Provision of AB Mix Solution Concentration (ppm)](image)

Giving of ZPT had no significant effect on the dry weight of mustard greens. The heaviest dry weight was obtained in treatment Z0 (1 ml) which was 11.22 g, followed by treatment Z1 (0.5 ml) which was 9.67 g and treatment Z0 (control) which was 8.55 g.

4 Discussion

4.1 Effect of Concentration of AB Mix Solution on Growth and Production of Mustard Plants (Brassica juncea L) in Hydroponic Wick Systems

The concentration of AB Mix solution significantly affected plant height, number of leaves, leaf width, leaf length, wet weight and dry weight.

Giving AB MIX ocean with a concentration of 1100 ppm significantly increased the concentration of the AB Mix solution significantly affected plant height, number of leaves, leaf width, leaf length, wet weight and dry weight, with increasing concentration of the given solution from 0 ppm, 550 ppm and 1100 ppm the increase in both growth and production of mustard greens. This is because the nutrient content in the AB Mix solution plays an important role in increasing growth and production.

The results showed that the treatment with the concentration of AB Mix 1100 ppm (K2) gave the highest plant height, which was 7.18 cm, this was related to giving the right concentration of AB Mix solution for mustard greens. According to Nugraha (2014) states that the composition of macro and micro nutrients is very influential on plants. Therefore, in the application of fertilizers, it must be balanced according to the needs of the plant [8].

The results showed that the concentration treatment of AB Mix 1100 (K2) solution gave the highest number of leaves, namely 9.39 strands. This is because the AB Mix solution is able to trigger the growth of the number of leaf stalks more than the 1200 ppm treatment and the 1300 ppm treatment used. Based on the difference in concentration which is considered sufficient in plant tissue, the higher the availability of plant nutrients, the higher the possibility of plant production if other factors also support it, if the availability of plant nutrients is large but other factors do not support the plant will not grow perfectly [9].

The results showed that the concentration treatment of AB Mix 1100 (K2) solution gave the highest leaf weight of 12.61 cm and the highest leaf width of 10.87 cm. This is because the AB Mix solution given is a concentration that suits the needs of plants, such as mustard greens grown with a hydroponic system. This opinion is in line with the results of research by Akasika et al., (2014), which states that the provision of nutrients with a concentration of 1000 ppm will Accelerate the rate of leaf formation, because plants need nutrients, especially N, which plays a major role in the vegetative phase have had enough. In plant vegetative growth as indicated by the increase in plant length, the nutrient that plays a role is nitrogen (N) [10].

The results showed that the concentration treatment of AB Mix 1100 (K2) solution gave the highest wet weight of 159.22 g. The increase in wet weight was related to other growth parameters such as plant height, number of leaves, roots and chlorophyll content. Suarsana et al., (2019) states that the rate of cell division and tissue formation is proportional to the growth of stems, leaves and root systems. This depends on the availability of carbohydrates in plants [11].

The results showed that the concentration treatment of AB Mix 1100 (K2) solution gave the highest dry weight of 12.33 g. Dry weight decreased with increasing nutrient concentration. This dry weight loss showed no signs of toxicity. The most likely thing is that increasing the concentration of nutrients will also increase the availability and absorption of N and K elements, where these two elements play a very important role in regulating cell turgor and succulence of plant organs [12]. Succulent plants usually have high fresh weight but low dry weight due to the high water content in their organs.
4.2 Effect of Concentration of ZPT on Growth and Production of Mustard Plants (*Brassica juncea* L.) in Hydroponic Wick Systems

Giving ZPT had a significant effect on leaf width, but had no significant effect on plant height, number of leaves, leaf length, wet weight and dry weight.

The best ZPT treatment was obtained at a concentration of 1 ml. Increasing the concentration of PGR significantly increased leaf width. This increase was caused by the hormone content in the ZPT, resulting in a process of elongation of new cells and eventually increasing the amount of tissue in plants resulting in faster plant growth. This is in line with Djamhari (2010) who explained that the application of exogenous ZPT in plants can function to stimulate the formation of phytohormones, so that they can encourage a biochemical activity. Phytohormones as organic compounds that work actively in small amounts are usually transformed throughout the plant so that they can affect plant growth or physiological processes [13].

Provision of ZPT had no significant effect on plant height, leaf length, wet weight and dry weight. According to Ardiana (2009), in an in vitro experiment, it was stated that giving ZPT with a concentration of ppm gave the best results, however, if the PGR concentration was increased to 1–1½ ppm, plant growth would be stunted [14]. According to Suyanti et al., (2013), cytokinins can inhibit the initiation and growth of lateral roots (lateral root primordium) but the mechanism of inhibitory regulation of these compounds is not known with certainty [15]. This is in accordance with the results obtained where the lowest results were in the ZPT treatment with a concentration of 0.5 ml even though the results were still higher than the control.

Giving ZPT did not significantly affect the number of leaves. This was indicated by the addition of higher ZPT which did not increase the number of leaves. These results are supported by research conducted by Widiastoeby (2014), who wrote that excessive cytokinin concentrations resulted in inhibition of shoot differentiation and growth, in addition to in vitro studies showing that often the use of cytokinins can stimulate the biosynthesis of ethylene compounds which causes inhibition of shoot growth, inhibits cell division, and cell elongation which results in the absence of other organs [16].

Cytokinins play a role in slowing plant aging. However, an increase in cytokinin content will inhibit shoot growth, reduce the accumulation of total chlorophyll, and delay the induction of flowering [17]. In a study conducted by Handayani et al., (2020), there was an increase in the number of cytokinins during the aging process, so that the yellowing process in plants was delayed. This is related to chlorophyll-degrading enzymes such as chlorophyllase, Mg-dechlatase, and peroxidase, where these three enzymes will increase their activity by ethylene while cytokinins decrease it [18]. This statement is in accordance with the results obtained where the addition of ZPT with a concentration of 0.5 ml is not much different from the treatment of giving ZPT with a concentration of 1 ml.

4.3 Effect of Concentration of AB Mix Solution and ZPT on Growth and Production of Mustard Plants (*Brassica juncea* L.) in Hydroponic Wick Systems

The interaction of giving the concentration of AB Mix solution and ZPT had no significant effect on the growth and production of mustard greens (*Brassica juncea* L.) in the Hydroponic Wick system.

Although it had no significant effect, the two factors interacted positively to increase the growth and production of mustard greens. Giving AB Mix solution with ZPT will support each other. This is because the availability of nutrients greatly affects the growth and development of plants, especially N for mustard plants. According to Gardner et al., (1991) in Zamriyeti et al., (2019) the essential function of nitrogen nutrients in plant tissue is cell division and enlargement [19].

5 Conclusion

The concentration of AB Mix solution significantly affected plant height, number of leaves, leaf width, leaf length, wet weight and dry weight mustard plants. The best concentration of AB Mix solution was in the K2 (1100 ppm) treatment with a plant height of 7.18 cm, leaf number 9.39, leaf width 10.87 cm, leaf length 12.61 cm, wet weight 159.22 g and dry weight 2.33 g.

Giving ZPT had a significant effect on leaf width, but had no significant effect on plant height, number of leaves, leaf length, wet weight and dry weight mustard plants. The best ZPT treatment was given to Z2 (1 ml) with a leaf width of 10.87 cm, plant height 6.59 cm, leaf number 9.08, leaf length 12.19 cm, wet weight 141.33 g and dry weight 11.22 g. The interaction of the concentration of the AB Mix solution and the addition of ZPT had no significant effect on the growth and production of mustard plants.

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